

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03789 042133Z

12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /065 W
----- 007471

P R 042050Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4662
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3789

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO AND MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE HERNAN GARRON ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION TO
RUN FOR PRESIDENCY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO HAS ANNOUNCED HIS
CANDIDACY FOR THE GOVERNMENT PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION,
AS HAS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE GARRON. BOTH MINISTERS WILL
REMAIN A FEW WEEKS IN THEIR JOBS. NO SUCCESSORS HAVE YET BEEN
NAMED. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO ANNOUNCED AUGUST 3 THAT
HE IS RESIGNING FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S POSITION HE HAS
HELD SINCE 1970 TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR HIS PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION. (ELECTIONS ARE IN FEBRUARY, 1978.) FACIO SAID
HE WOULD STAY ON A FEW WEEKS MORE AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT.
SEPTEMBER 1 IS MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE DATE THAT HE WILL LEAVE
FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. IN DECLARATIONS TO PRESS AUGUST 3, FACIO STATED THAT HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03789 042133Z

REPRESENTS THE CENTER OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION PARTY (THE

GOVERNMENT PARTY), AND SAID THAT HE IS A PARTY FOUNDER. HE SAID THAT "LAW AND ORDER" IS HIS THEME; HE WILL NOT TOLERATE PUBLIC DISORDER (FACIO IS REFERRING TO WAVE OF STRIKES THAT COSTA RICA PASSED THROUGH DURING RECENT WEEKS, REPORTED IN SAN JOSE 3701).

4. ON SAME DAY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HERNAN GARRON ANNOUNCED THAT HIS FOLLOWERS' PRESSURES HAVE BUILT UP TO SUCH A POINT THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO RESIGN EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31 TO RUN FOR HIS PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. GARRON SAID PRESIDENT ODUBER ASKED HIM TO STAY UNTIL AUGUST 31.

5. RUMORS ABOUT THAT MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION ALVARO JENKINS WILL ALSO OFFER HIS RESIGNATION SOON TO JOIN RANKS OF PLN PRE-CANDIDATES.

6. BY FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 1976, PLN SHOULD HAVE SELECTED ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, THROUGH TRADITIONAL CONVENTION PROCESS, OR POSSIBLY A PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE FOLLOWED BY A CONVENTION.

7. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DEFEAT OF JOSE FIGUERES' ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE CONSTITUTION CHANGED TO PERMIT HIM TO BE A CANDIDATE

IN 1978, THE RACE WITHIN THE GOVERNING PLN FOR THE NOMINATION IS NOW WIDE OPEN. FACIO'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED ALTHOUGH THE TIMING WAS A BIT OF A SURPRISE. IT IS BEING INTERPRETED BY SOME AS SIGNAL OF FIGUERES' SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT YET CLEAR. IT IS WIDELY HELD IN COSTA RICA THAT FACIO WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY ON THE HUSTINGS, WHERE HE IS NOT THAT WIDELY KNOWN, DUE TO HIS ALMOST EXCLUSIVE DEDICATION THE PAST SIX YEARS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. FACIO ADDRESSED THIS POINT IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS AUGUST 3, SAYING THAT HE FELT HE WAS WELL ENOUGH KNOWN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE -- ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE COUNTRY FOLK THAT WELL.

8. FRONT-RUNNER IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE CONTINUES TO BE GOVERNMENT PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LUIS ALBERTO MONGE. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE GARRON, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN COMING ON STRONG IN RECENT WEEKS, AND HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO RESIGN. WHETHER FACIO'S

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 03789 042133Z

OR GARRON'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PLANNED FIRST IS HARD TO SAY; THAT THEY ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY IS INDICATION THAT ONE DID NOT WANT THE OTHER TO GAIN EVEN THE SLIGHTEST ADVANTAGE.

9. PRESIDENT ODUBER'S POSITION IN PRE-ELECTION POLITICS IS TO MAINTAIN THE PUBLIC HANDS-OFF IMAGE (CALLED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTION) FOR THE REMAINING TWENTY ONE MONTHS OF HIS TERM. ODUBER, OF COURSE, CONTINUES TO EXERCISE HIS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE

IN THE PARTY; THE NOTION OF A PLN "PRIMARY" ELECTION (PARA 6)
IS HIS. WHOM ODUBER SUPPORTS, ALONG WITH WHAT JOSE FIGUERES
DECIDES TO DO, ARE THE KEYS TO WHO THE PLN CANDIDATE WILL
EVENTUALLY BE. TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO003789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-1095
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760887/aaaacyul.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HERNAN GARRON ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS, (FACIO SEGRED, GONZALO), (GARRON SALAZAR, HERNAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006